

## WAX POETIC

*Locally made candles and bold  
candelabra are the perfect match  
for autumn.* BY ANNE VICKMAN

Temperatures have dipped,  
leaves are turning, and the air  
is crisp. When the days get  
shorter, we yearn for a hint  
of sparkle, and candles—  
long a part of New England life—  
add instant warmth to any room. »

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### MORTAL COIL

LOOP, \$30,  
ABODEON

Thin, swooping  
curves mimic  
the flair of  
brushstrokes.

objects | A PERFECT TEN



**PLUMB PERFECT**  
JOHN ATWATER, \$175, J.E.M. HOME  
Not for the faint of heart, this set of (real) pipes embodies a kind of factory chic.



**ALLATWITTER**  
LLADRO PARROT TEAM, \$1,350, JOSEPH GANN  
The feathered friends gracing this cheeky piece might not sing, but they'll still light up any corner.



**WOUND UP**  
SPIRAL BY DANSK, \$75, RESIDE SOUTH END  
This silver-plated swirl number is an elegant twist on the straight and narrow.



**ASSEMBLY INSPIRED**  
ROCCO, \$60, THE KIMBALL SHOP  
Baroque sensibilities meet 21st-century design in this acrylic candleholder, which folds flat and adds mod flair to boudoirs.



**CLASSIC BEAUTY**  
MATCH PEWTER, \$516, DIDRIKS  
Traditional, sophisticated lines dress up a ho-hum dining room table in timeless style.



**CLEAR CUT**  
ANTOINE SIR, \$650, DESIGN WITHIN REACH  
Blown glass in a rounded goblet shape fits multiple flames into a compact space—with major impact.



**SLICK WICK**  
CRYSTAL THREE-ARM, \$995, FURN & CO.  
A little transparency never hurts—and this candelabrum gets bonus points for wielding the power to support some hefty pillars.



**MAGIC LAMP**  
BACCARAT MILLE NUITS, \$2,450, THE MORSON COLLECTION  
Precisely beveled edges, handblown crystal, and an exotic silhouette call to mind the classic folktale collection *Arabian Nights*.



**HEAVY METAL**  
WALK OF FLAMES BY FREDERIK ROIJE, \$632, NOVA 68  
If a good dose of drama is what you're after, this 33-inch study in staggered geometric angles and bent-metal tubes should fit the bill nicely.

Once handmade at home during the fall and winter, candles became big business in the 19th century. Aromatic bayberry-wax candles, made from the berries of bayberry shrubs, were invented here; even Benjamin Franklin's father, Josiah, was a candle-maker. Yankee Candle, the largest specialty candle company in the country (producing 200 million each year), was founded in South Hadley.

Is it something about the region's autumnal light that harmonizes so well with the flickering flame? Eccentric art collector and philanthropist Isabella Stewart Gardner would have said yes. Though she had electricity in her home, she frequently hosted events in her galleries by candlelight, says Hilliard Goldfarb, author of *The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum*.

Demand for the warm glow of the taper continues to this day, and you can find handmade, all-natural candles throughout Massachusetts. In Carlisle, Rick Reault owns 300 beehives that produce 1,200 pounds of wax per year, all of which he turns into candles. Reault sells his hand-dipped beeswax tapers, tealights, and votives online (carlislehoney.com) and at farmer's markets in Belmont, Revere, and Bedford. And on the Cape, Agostino Di Bari and his wife, Lisa, make beautiful pillars, molded candles, and bayberry tapers out of beeswax (honeycandle.com).

As for what to put them in, traditional candelabra remain popular, but new shapes, sizes (bigger is better), colors (denim blue, cherry red), and materials (Lucite, acrylic) are gaining appeal. These updated incarnations offer something for every style. "Candelabra are becoming more like a piece of furniture," says Caroline Morson, owner of the Morson Collection, which offers exquisite Baccarat crystal votives by Philippe Starck. "They are meant to grab the eye, like a painting or a sculpture. They soften an environment and make it more relaxed." ■



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